

our concern. Mr. Becker may be able by his presence to induce the shareholders to re-constitute or re-investigate the company. It is a very important thing to us that this should be continued, but we cannot afford to prosecute matters at the present juncture—which cannot continue for very long. With regard to Sanguine Dun, no work has been done, and we are waiting for better times in the Malay Peninsula, when we may be able to go some party to take over our concern. It may be advisable after this year to definitely abandon the concession to the Government, and thus relieve the company from the payment of half the annual tax for prospecting, and question of gold has to be considered, and in conjunction with the Rubber Company we propose that a fixed rate should be levied; in the meantime we make payments in advance. I am glad to be able to say that we receive the officials of Pahang, though I do not think they sufficiently realize the very hard work this company had to undertake in pioneering mining in the State. Mr. Clifford, the able Acting Resident, has been kind enough to give me a letter in furthering our work. It is unfortunate that the State is in such pecuniary difficulties, as nothing is being done towards opening out the country as in the adjoining States, and so adding any mining enterprises. Before concluding, I would again like to express my extreme satisfaction at the manner in which Mr. Blumey has carried out his duties as our Prospector and mining manager, and I only regret that we had not such a man in charge from the start. Before moving the adoption of the Report and Accounts, I shall be glad to answer any questions to the best of my ability.

There being no questions, The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. G. Holmes seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.

The Chairman—The next business before the meeting is the election of directors. Mr. Woodin and I retire, but we offer ourselves for re-election. As we have secured the support of the shareholders, have five directors, we are one short at present, and I beg to propose that Mr. G. Fawcett be elected. (Applause.)

Mr. Gillies seconded and the motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. P. B. Cane proposed the re-election of Messrs. Orange and Woodin.

Mr. A. E. Steels seconded. Carried unanimously.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Terry, Messrs. Henderson and Mr. Lyle were re-elected auditors.

Mr. Mehta—I beg to propose that a very cordial vote of thanks be conveyed to Mr. Orange, our worthy Chairman, for the able and efficient manner in which he has carried out his duties as Chairman of the company in Pahang. The report has been the outcome of his visit to the place in person on our behalf, undertaken I am sure at great personal inconvenience and sacrifice. It is, I am glad to observe, very much unlike the dry and fancy pictures of some so-called mining experts, and is a plain unvarnished tale of what has been done and what should be done by us. He has certainly taken a great deal of trouble on our behalf, and he has done it to the hilt. Also I beg to propose that a vote of thanks be conveyed to our representatives in London, Mr. Brodie and his able coadjutor, for the very valuable services they have rendered to this company during the year.

The Chairman—Gentlemen, you have heard the proposition made by Mr. Mehta and seconded by Mr. Mehta, Mr. Mehta, Mr. Mehta, I am very much obliged to you for the kindly remarks just made and for the vote of thanks, which however I think is due more to the other members of the Board than to me. I am only a late-comer in the history of the company, while Mr. Gillies and Mr. Davies have worked for many years in your behalf without any remuneration whatever. They have really had a hard work, and I think they are entitled to a vote of thanks. With regard to the affairs of the company, I think it must be a considerable gratification to you to know that at the present time and indeed for the past five or six months we have started six months with \$28,000 (about £2,000) against that we have some debts at the mine, also a small advance to the London company, and we have now more than \$20,000 in hand and making good on the mine. We have practically carried on for the last six months with an expenditure of something like \$500, and I hope that for the next six months we shall do the same. All our hopes in this company depend on the London Company, not having any money at the mine we cannot stand to precipitate matters, and therefore it is that I ask you to do the very best office of simply waiting for our London representatives and depend on them doing all they can. You may be sure they will not err on the side of leniency for directors have the opportunity for forcing the hands of the London Company they will do so. This concluded the meeting.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held this afternoon, H. E. Major-General G. Digby Barker, C. B., Officer Administering the Government, presided; and there were also present: Hon. W. M. Goodman, Acting Colonial Secretary; Hon. A. J. Leach, Acting Attorney General; Hon. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart, Registrar General; Hon. F. A. Cooper, Acting Surveyor General; Hon. N. G. Mitchell-Innes, Colonial Treasurer; Hon. F. Ryrie, Hon. J. J. Keavish, Hon. Ho Kai, Hon. T. H. Whitehead, and Mr. A. M. Thomson, Acting Clerk of Councils. Absent: Hon. C. P. Chater.

Mr. F. A. Cooper, Acting Surveyor General, was sworn in as a member of the Council.

His Excellency the Acting Governor delivered an address which will be found in another part of the paper.

DESPATCHES TABLED.

The Acting Colonial Secretary laid on the table despatches concerning the military contribution and the appointment of a Chinese Consul at Hongkong. These documents will be found in another part of the paper.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The Acting Colonial Secretary laid on the table financial minutes recommending the following votes:—A sum of \$320, as a Commission Allowance to the widow and children of Cheong Loi, late First Sheriff in the Colonial Treasury; a sum of \$1,000, for general repairs to the Government Ma-

rine Surveyor's Launch *Hilde*, and providing a launch while the repairs are being executed; a sum of \$7,037, for the repairs to damages caused by the storm on the 18th and 19th August to the Praya wall and roadway in Yauwatti, in front of Lots Nos. 216 and 218; a sum of \$1,092, as a Commission Allowance to the children of the late Mr. A. M. Place, Senior Marine Officer in the General Post Office, in consideration of their father's twenty-one years' service; a sum of \$3,500, for building the Vaccine Institute; a sum of \$3,000, for the repair of St. John's Cathedral Church.

The votes were referred to the Finance Committee.

THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE.

The Acting Attorney General laid on the table the report of the Committee on the Bankruptcy Bill, and gave notice that, if there was no objection to the course, he would at next meeting move the third reading of the Bill.

QUESTIONS BY MR. WHITEHEAD.

Mr. Whitehead—With your Excellency's permission, I desire to postpone asking the first eight questions of which I gave notice for two or three meetings of Council on account of the sad death and of the sorrowful circumstances attending the death of the late Surveyor General. I propose to ask only Nos. 9, 10, 11 and 12.

The questions and the answers are as follows:—

Will the Government lay on the table a statement showing:—(1) The amount of monies received from Marine Lot holders and others on account of the Praya Reclamation Fund; (2) Mode of investment of the fund; (3) The payments thereout to 30th ultimo and on what specific accounts, particularly:—a. Payments to Contractors; b. Payments for plant, materials, &c.; also a detailed report showing the progress of and the actual condition of the work.

The Colonial Secretary said the Acting Surveyor General had prepared a full statement which would be printed and laid on the table on Monday.

Have contracts been entered into for the execution of work on any sections other than those now in hand, and if not, is it intended to proceed with any other sections during the coming year?

The Acting Surveyor General said no contracts had been entered into for any sections other than those in hand. He had no doubt arrangements would be made if possible to proceed with other sections within the coming year.

Will the Government lay on the table a copy of Lord Knutsford's Despatch of 26th March, 1891, to His Excellency Governor Sir William De Vaux in connection with the appointment of a Chinese Consul in Hongkong, and a copy of Governor Sir Wm. De Vaux's reply thereto, also a copy of Lord Knutsford's Despatch of 7th July, 1891, as well as a copy of His Lordship's Despatch confirming his telegram to His Excellency, The Officer Administering the Government, received here on 18th July last, intimating that the proposed probatory appointment of a Chinese Consul for this Colony had been withdrawn?

His Excellency said he had directed the two despatches referred to to be laid on the table, and the other correspondence thereto be previously given that it was understood to publish it still held good, and the telegram from the Secretary of State intimating his concurrence with that view.

Will the Government lay on the table a copy of any correspondence which may have been received from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies in connection with the Protest of the Unofficial Members of this Honorable Council against the action of His Excellency Governor Sir Wm. De Vaux in issuing his warrant without the authority of this Council on the 21st February, 1891, for the payment of the equivalent of £20,000 sterling additional Military Contribution to the Government of Hongkong for the year 1890?

His Excellency said the despatch had been laid on the table.

REGULATION OF CEMETERIES. The Registrar General proposed that the Sanitary Board by-laws for regulating cemeteries be adopted. He said the by-laws would affect a great improvement in the Chinese cemeteries.

The motion was adopted.

THE CHINA ORDINANCES. The Prepared Opium Ordinance 1891 and the Raw Opium Amendment Ordinance 1891 were read a first time.

The Acting Attorney General moved the suspension of the standing orders in order to allow the second reading to be proceeded with to-day. The present provisions terminated early next year, and some two or three months before the termination it was necessary to act for tenders. This time was closely approaching. The policy of the Opium Ordinances had been approved, and he did not think members would object to reading the Bill a second time to-day.

Mr. Whitehead thought the second reading should be postponed to next meeting of Council. The Bill only reached unofficial members two days ago. He believed persons particularly interested in the ordinance had made certain suggestions which the Government were willing to consider and willing to embody in the Bill, and he thought that should be done before the Bill was read a second time.

The Acting Attorney General pointed out that the Bill was published in the Gazette ten days ago. The importers of opium wished one or two amendments introduced. He thought, however, no person could be injured affected so long as they proceeded only with the undesirable clauses.

Mr. Ryrie seconded the amendment. He said a Chinese promised to call and give him some ideas about the Bill, but had not yet called. The man was well acquainted with opium, had been licensed himself, and he had some further discussion Mr. Whitehead said he had no objection to the second reading being taken, but he thought it only right that unofficial members should be supplied with copies of draft bills and not be obliged to have recourse to the Gazette.

The Acting Attorney General then moved the second reading of the Prepared Opium Bill. He said its object was to protect the Opium Farm from which the Colony derives a large part of its revenue. He then explained the various amendments, the chief of which we have already given.

The clause requiring the Farmer to keep a register of all opium supplied to him, was, he said, objected to by the Farmer, who would perhaps have to be struck out in Committee. He referred at length to section 34 which makes shipowners responsible for opium found on board and liable to a penalty not exceeding

\$1,000. There was a great deal of amending work on from Macao and it was necessary to protect the Farmer. The provisions of the section were much less severe than those of the Singapore ordinance by which the ship might be confiscated. The Hongkong Bill also provided that if it were proved that the reasonable precautions had been taken and that none of the officers and servants were implicated, a ship would not be held liable for opium found on board.

He hinted that a ship might not have been introduced from the Canton and Macao Steamship Company not refused to take on an officer on board their boats.

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for providing for the future maintenance and administration of the Cathedral, consequent upon the abolition of the post of Colonial Chaplain and the alteration of the Church of England in this Colony. 5. A Volunteer Ordinance.

THE VOLUNTEERS AND THE DEFENCE OF THE COLONY.

The defence works of the Colony being now practically completed and armed, the question of increasing the force of Volunteers and placing them on a more efficient and satisfactory footing has become urgent. The Machine Gun ordered from England, having arrived, and I shall have to invite the removal of the interest of the residents in the Colony in the matter of auxiliary defence, about which enthusiasm has recently fagged. The difficulties in arranging for the promised reinforcement of regular troops have now been got over, and there is every reason to believe that the Garrison will soon be completed to its full establishment, but the need for an efficient system of Volunteers is still great.

THE VENEING OF CHINESE DEEDS.

With regard to the question of affording further space for the interment of Chinese who has occupied the attention of the Government for some time past, and at the present time, together with the Registrar General, and the Registrar General since his return from leave, have worked with much energy, it has at last been found possible to devise a means to carry out the Chinese practice of exhumation and 'urning' of the bones.

THE SUPPRESSION OF GAMBLING.

I have not ceased to use my best endeavours to induce the High Chinese Authorities of the neighbouring Provinces to suppress gambling in the Chinese towns and villages on our borders, which has increased with the disinclination of the Vice-Consul to the Gambling Ordinance which you recently passed. My representations have been met by the Chinese authorities with a laudable desire to co-operate, and stringent measures have been taken by them to suppress the evil. I regret to say that the Chinese difficulty in totally suppressing the evil there, arises from the shelter and facilities afforded to the gamblers by the neighbourhood of Hongkong and the means of transport from the colony to the mainland being directed to this phase of the matter. On the other hand it may interest you to learn that from a report furnished me by the Police Magistrate, he has been most satisfactorily, as evidenced, by the constant suppression of the gambling houses but by the consequent diminution of all classes of crime.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR ON FUTURE LEGISLATION AND THE POSITION OF THE COLONY.

At the first meeting of the Session of the Legislative Council held this afternoon, His Excellency Major-General Digby Barker, Officer Administering the Government, delivered the following address:—

Honourable Gentlemen,—We must again to-day to resume our common labours in the interests of this Colony, and I shall intend to proceed with any other sections during the coming year.

The Acting Surveyor General said no contracts had been entered into for any sections other than those in hand. He had no doubt arrangements would be made if possible to proceed with other sections within the coming year.

Will the Government lay on the table a copy of Lord Knutsford's Despatch of 26th March, 1891, to His Excellency Governor Sir William De Vaux in connection with the appointment of a Chinese Consul in Hongkong, and a copy of Governor Sir Wm. De Vaux's reply thereto, also a copy of Lord Knutsford's Despatch of 7th July, 1891, as well as a copy of His Lordship's Despatch confirming his telegram to His Excellency, The Officer Administering the Government, received here on 18th July last, intimating that the proposed probatory appointment of a Chinese Consul for this Colony had been withdrawn?

His Excellency said he had directed the two despatches referred to to be laid on the table, and the other correspondence thereto be previously given that it was understood to publish it still held good, and the telegram from the Secretary of State intimating his concurrence with that view.

Will the Government lay on the table a copy of any correspondence which may have been received from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies in connection with the Protest of the Unofficial Members of this Honorable Council against the action of His Excellency Governor Sir Wm. De Vaux in issuing his warrant without the authority of this Council on the 21

